Mountain Weather Forecast

North Grampian

Including North and West Cairngorms National Park, Monadhliath, Ben Alder, Creag Meagaidh, Loch Ericht and Loch Rannoch
Forecast valid from 00:00 on Friday 22 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Thursday 21 Dec 2023 at 14:01 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for changeable and often windy conditions on Friday and over the weekend. Lower confidence on the timing of transition from colder to milder weather during the course of Saturday.

Headline for Friday 22 Dec 2023: Cloudy with sleet, snow at first, rain at lower levels. Then bright spells and scattered showers, snow above 500m. Very cold and windy.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 22 Dec 2023

Blizzards Low Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** Low Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales High Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** High Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m

Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light snow showers (night)	Light snow showers (night)	Heavy snow	Light snow	Light snow showers	Light snow showers	Light snow	Heavy snow
Precipitation probability							
50%	70%	70%	50%	40%	40%	40%	60%

Forecast for Friday 22 Dec 2023

Weather: Clear periods and further wintry showers overnight. Rather cloudy start to Friday with sleet or snow above about 700m and rain lower down. This will give way to brighter skies and scattered showers later in the morning and during afternoon. The showers will fall as snow above about 500 to 600m.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 30% improving 60% by afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Good visibility between showers with occasional cloud cover about 700 to 900m. Very poor visibility as snow showers come along with more extensive cloud cover lower down the hills.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Forecast for Friday 22 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	49/65 NW	44/58 NW	31/41 NW	41/55 W	46/62 NW	42/56 NW	35/47 NW	23/30 NW	18/24 NW
900	40/50 NW	34/43 NW	24/31 W	35/45 W	36/48 NW	32/43 NW	27/36 NW	16/22 W	11/16 W
600	26/36 W	21/30 W	15/22 W	23/31 W	24/35 W	21/31 W	17/25 W	10/15 W	6/10 W
300	13/30 W	11/26 W	7/16 W	11/27 W	15/32 NW	12/27 NW	9/20 W	6/13 W	3/7 W
Glen	5/29 NW	5/25 NW	3/16 W	5/26 W	7/30 NW	5/26 NW	4/21 W	3/13 W	2/8 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	-5/-17	-5/-16	-4/-14	-3/-13	-4/-15	-5/-16	-5/-15	-4/-12	-4/-11
900	-2/-12	-2/-11	-1/-9	-0/-8	-1/-10	-2/-10	-2/-10	-2/-8	-2/-6
600	0/-7	0/-6	0/-5	2/-5	2/-5	1/-6	0/-6	0/-4	0/-3
300	2/-3	2/-2	2/-2	3/-1	3/-1	2/-2	2/-2	2/-1	1/-1
Glen	3/-0	3/-0	2/-0	4/1	4/0	3/0	3/1	2/0	1/-0
Freezing Level*	500m	500m	600m	900m	700m	600m	600m	600m	500m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View
Very difficult walking conditions due to combination of low temperatures, strong winds and sleet/snow showers. Also tricky underfoot conditions.

Forecast for Saturday 23 Dec 2023
Weather: Cloudy with a period of snow even to low levels in north of area at first on Saturday with blizzard conditions on higher ridges and summits. Snow will gradually turn to rain at lower elevations from the south during morning then rain increasingly at all levels during afternoon and early evening.

Maximum wind: Lighter southwest winds at first, then strong to gale force westerly winds developing by afternoon, average speeds 30 to 40mph with gusts 55mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance.

Low cloud and visibility: Misty conditions with often very poor visibility and extensive cloud cover well down the hills. This will lead to navigational difficulties.

Temperature: **Glens:** 4 Celsius but close to freezing in north at first, rising to 7 Celsius by afternoon.
At 800m: Minus 2 Celsius rising to plus 5 Celsius in afternoon.
Freezing level: 500m but 200m in north of area at first, then rising above the summits during afternoon and evening.

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